

DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER • 815 SECOND AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

er H. Boyd, Press Officer

Drew Dearnaley, Assistant Press Officer

Telephone: (212) 867-8400

81108 March 26, 1981

IRANIAN ANGLICANS ARE RELEASED

I ONDON -- The sequel to the return of British missionaries Jean Waddell and John and Audrey Coleman is that in Iran, leaders of the Episcopal Church in Iran who have been in custody since August 1980 have also been released and are back with their families, according to a report from the Anglican Consultative Council here.

The tiny Iranian Church, whose Bishop, the Rt. Rev. H. B. Dehqani-Tafti, has been in exile in England, has been without leadership over the last seven months.

On August 9, 1979, lay Diocesan Administrator Demitri Bellos was arrested in Tehran. The following week the two remaining Iranian priests, the Rev. Iraj Muttaheddah, senior Commissary to the Bishop, and the Rev. Nusratullah Sharifian were also taken into custody.

The Rev. Iraj Muttaheddah was held in Evin Prison, Tehran, the same place where missionary Jean Waddell was kept.

The others were held at a secret detention centre on the outskirts of Tehran, with the Colemans, and with another Iranian layman, Mr. Mugadam.

Earlier this week the Bishop in Iran said he hoped that "a new era of better relations between our Church and the Iranian people" was in the offing.

He believes that it is too early to speculate about the future shape of Church work in Iran.

#

DP, DX

sal

DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

THE ECISCOPAL CHURCH

THE COURSE CHARLES AND A PROPERTY OF STREET AND AND ASSESSMENT OF STREET

THE PARTY OF THE P

COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE OWNER.

MARIAN AMELICANS

of ONDOW - The squality the petition of Define an despite the feet to be seen the feet and the f

The time transmitteness, whose History the Market II. to reduce tell, use a very transmitteness, the market is to the property of the second s

The Roy, the Manufaction was being as Substitute of the Same Place when

Carter this week on Riches in true roud to hoped that 'a read a firster mature.

the half in the the state some to appear the about the future made of Church viert

70000

1 1 1 1 1 1

722 7353